FABLES & HUMOUR

VIDYUT CHORA

Vidyut Chora, the prince, and Yamadanda, the kotwal's son, had made a pledge to each other while playing. Vidyut had vowed that when he would be king and his friend, the kotwal, he would commit a crime which would be impossible to solve and would earn Yamadanda the noose. And Yamadanda had vowed to have him caught and beaten. The years pass and the time comes to redeem their pledge but it is no longer a matter of play.

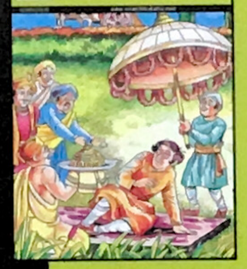
OTHER ACK FABLES & HUMOUR:

BIRBAL THE GENIUS

FRIENDS AND FOES

STORIES OF COURAGE

TRUE FRIENDS



ALSO LOOK FOR:

KACHA AND DEVAYANI

EPICS & MYTHOLOGY

KANNAGI

INDIAN CLASSICS

NOOR JAHAN

BRAVEHEARTS

VIDYASAGAR

VISIONARIES

Buy online at www.amarchitrakatha.com

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

ISBN 81-8482-220-0

9 788184 822205

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

VIDYUT CHORA

A JAIN TALE ABOUT REDEEMING A PLEDGE

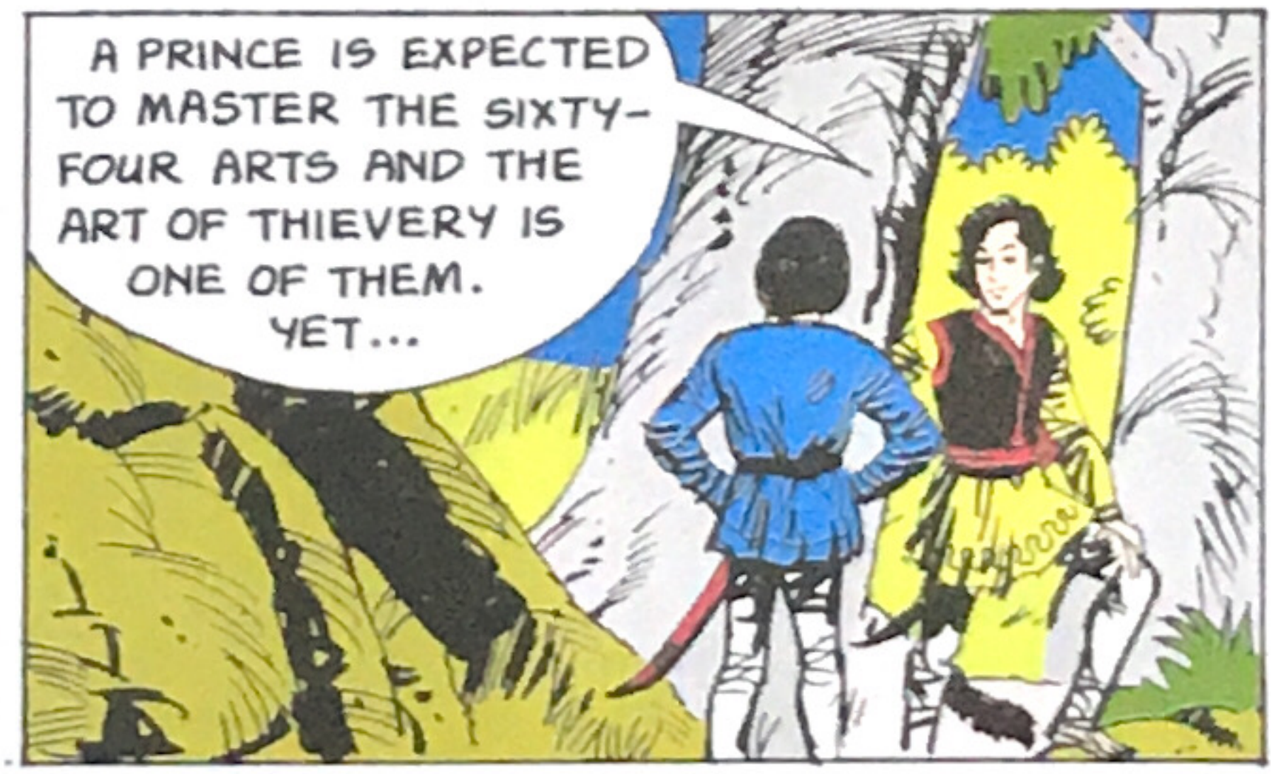
Vol 754 | ₹50

VIDYUT CHORA

PRINCE VIDYUT AND YAMADANDA, SON OF THE KOTWAL, WERE STUDYING UNDER THE SAME GURU AT HIS ASHRAMA IN THE FOREST. ONE DAY, WHEN THEY HAD SOME LEISURE —

LET'S PLAY, YAMADANDA.

THIEF AND KOTWAL?



SO... YOU BE THE THIEF... A THIEF WHO IS HIDING FROM THE KOTWAL. LET'S SEE HOW CLEVER YOU ARE AT IT.

VERY WELL, I'LL GO AND HIDE. LET'S SEE HOW CLEVER YOU ARE AT TRACKING ME DOWN.

YAMADANDA WENT AND HID AND THE PRINCE BEGAN TO LOOK FOR HIM.
TRAMPLED GRASS! SOMEONE HAS JUST GONE BY.

AHA! A BROKEN TWIG! WHO COULD HAVE STEPPED ON IT EXCEPT MY FRIEND!

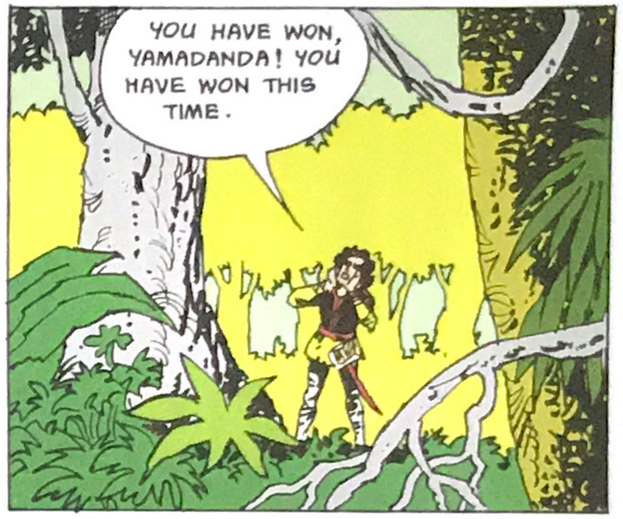
I MUST BE CLOSE TO HIS HIDING-PLACE.

WHERE COULD HE BE? WHERE COULD HE BE?

THE PRINCE SEARCHED LONG AND HARD. BUT FINALLY —
HE HAS CONCEALED HIMSELF TOO WELL.

WILL I HAVE TO ADMIT DEFEAT AND PUT UP WITH HIS BRAGGING?

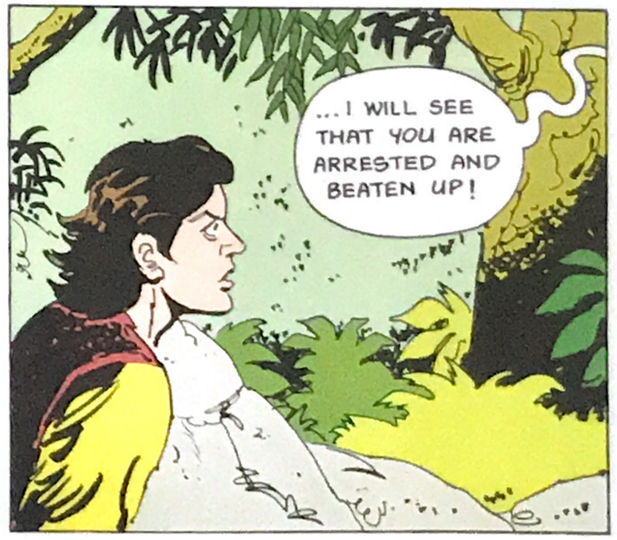
NO! I WON'T. NOT IF MY RUSE WORKS.


YOU HAVE WON, YAMADANDA! YOU HAVE WON THIS TIME.

BUT ONE DAY WHEN YOU ARE THE KOTWAL, I WILL COMMIT A CRIME YOU CANNOT SOLVE AND SEE THAT YOU ARE HANGED.

HANGED, DO YOU HEAR?

IF YOU EVER MISBEHAVE WHEN I AM THE KOTWAL...

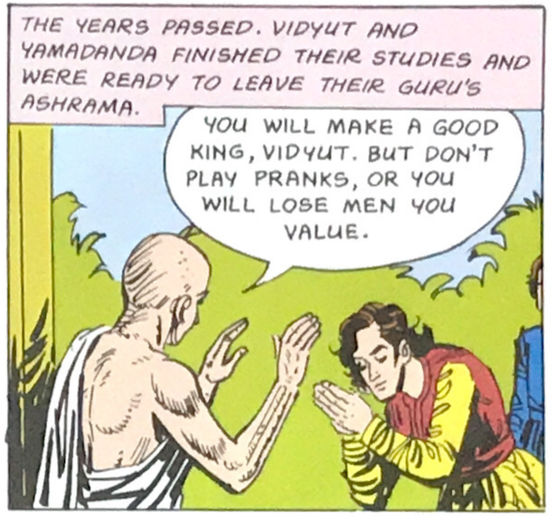

...I WILL SEE THAT YOU ARE ARRESTED AND BEATEN UP!

DO YOU HEAR ?

YES, I DO, INDEED! COME DOWN, YAMADANDA!
EH!

SEE HOW EASILY I GOT YOU TO BETRAY YOUR-SELF!

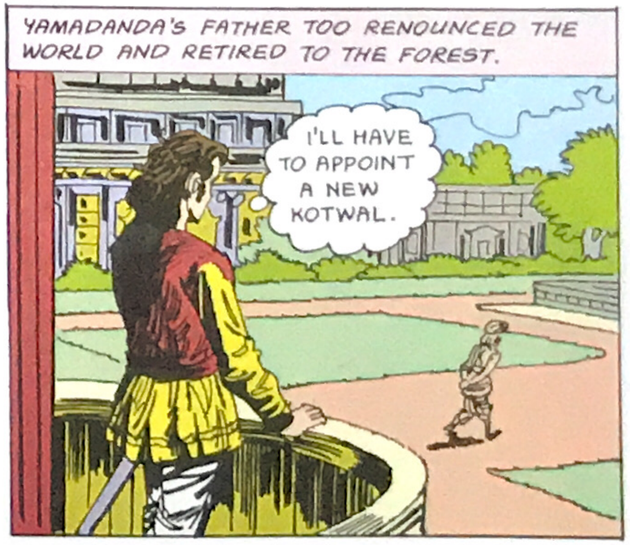
YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU AT ALL TIMES, YAMADANDA. THAT'S WHAT I WOULD EXPECT FROM MY KOTWAL!


THE YEARS PASSED. VIDYUT AND YAMADANDA FINISHED THEIR STUDIES AND WERE READY TO LEAVE THEIR GURU'S ASHRAMA.
YOU WILL MAKE A GOOD KING, VIDYUT. BUT DON'T PLAY PRANKS, OR YOU WILL LOSE MEN YOU VALUE.

AND YOU WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT KOTWAL, YAMADANDA, PROVIDED YOU KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU.

WHEN VIDYUT RETURNED TO THE CAPITAL—
I HAVE GROWN OLD. I WISH TO SPEND THE REST OF MY YEARS IN THE FOREST.

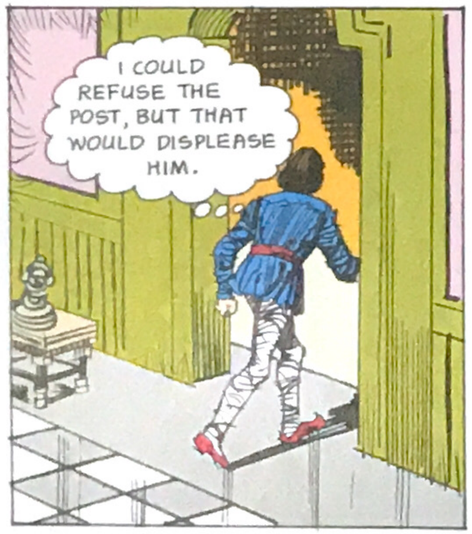
RULE WELL AND WISELY, MY SON.


YAMADANDA'S FATHER TOO RENOUNCED THE WORLD AND RETIRED TO THE FOREST.
I'LL HAVE TO APPOINT A NEW KOTWAL.

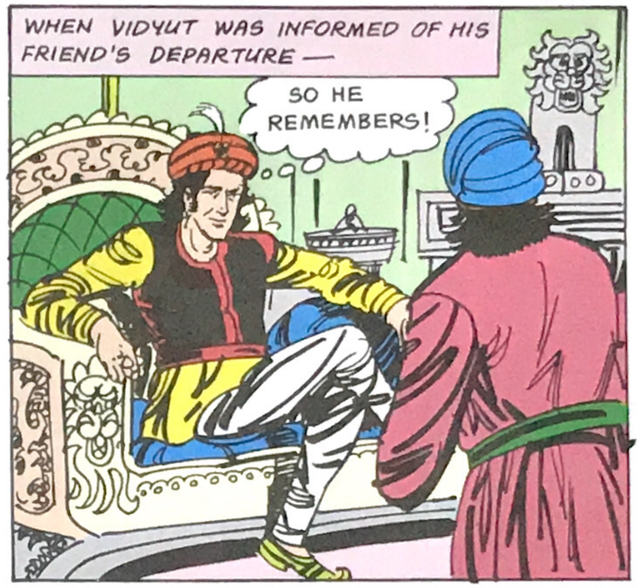
SEND FOR YAMADANDA.

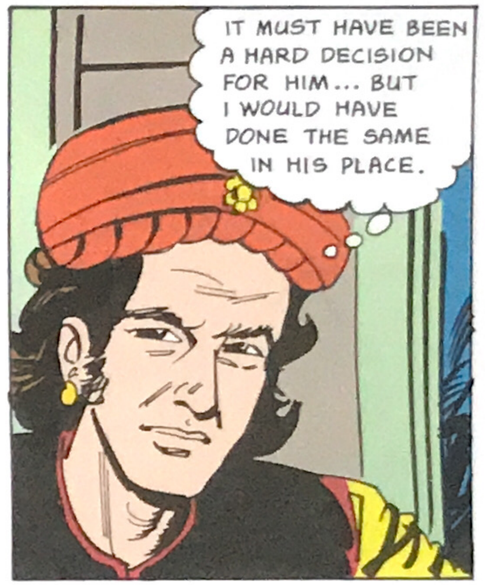
WHEN YAMADANDA RECEIVED THE SUMMONS—
THE DAY I HAVE BEEN DREADING HAS COME.

HE WILL SURELY OFFER ME MY FATHER'S POST. BUT IF I ACCEPT...
ONE DAY WHEN YOU ARE THE KOTWAL, I WILL COMMIT A CRIME YOU CANNOT SOLVE...AND SEE THAT YOU ARE HANGED!

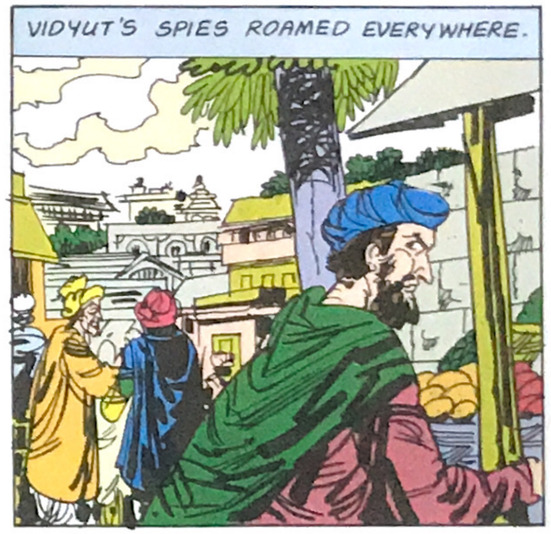

I COULD REFUSE THE POST, BUT THAT WOULD DISPLEASE HIM.

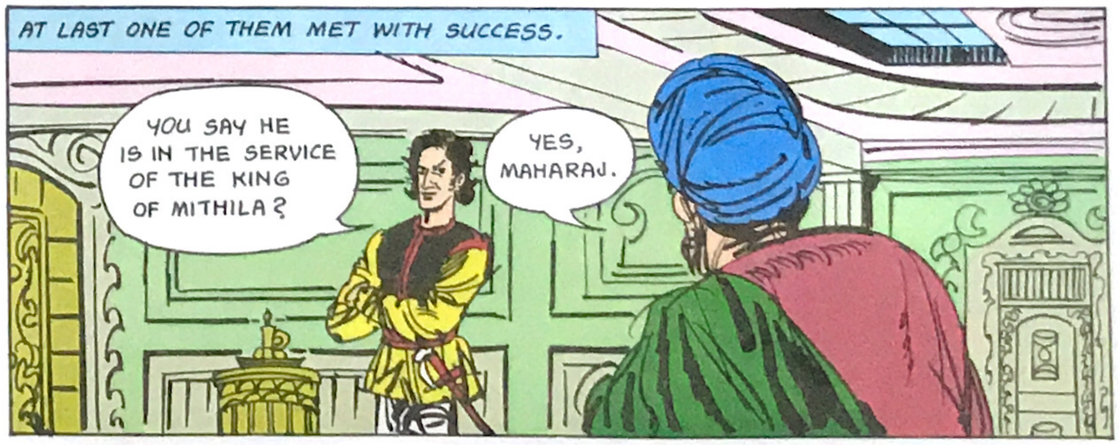
THERE IS ONLY ONE COURSE OPEN TO ME...I MUST LEAVE HIS KINGDOM.
THAT VERY NIGHT, YAMADANDA LEFT.


WHEN VIDYUT WAS INFORMED OF HIS FRIEND'S DEPARTURE —
SO HE REMEMBERS!


IT MUST HAVE BEEN A HARD DECISION FOR HIM... BUT I WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME IN HIS PLACE.

SEND SPIES TO ALL THE NEIGHBOURING KINGDOMS. FIND OUT WHERE HE HAS GONE.


VIDYUT'S SPIES ROAMED EVERYWHERE.

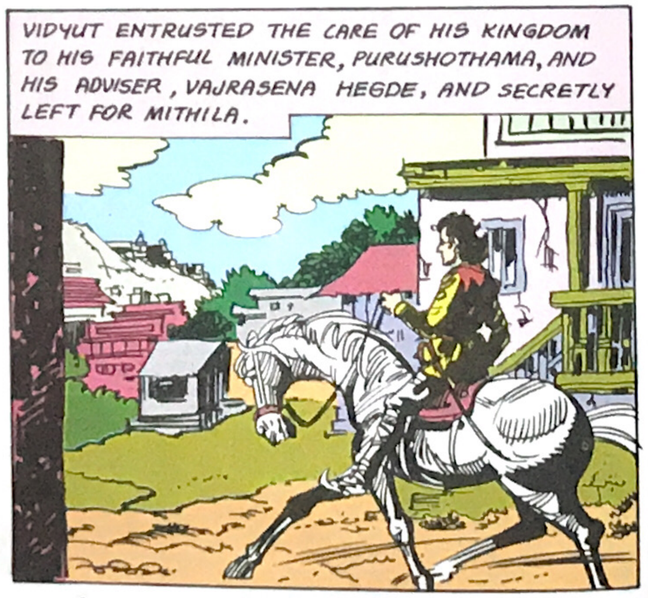

AT LAST ONE OF THEM MET WITH SUCCESS.
YOU SAY HE IS IN THE SERVICE OF THE KING OF MITHILA?
YES, MAHARAJ.

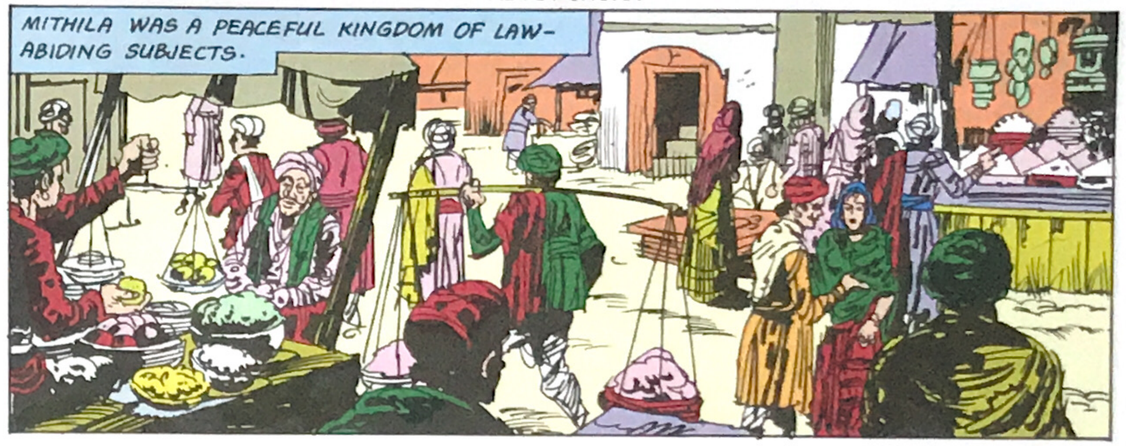
HE IS THE KOTWAL.
THE KOTWAL, EH?

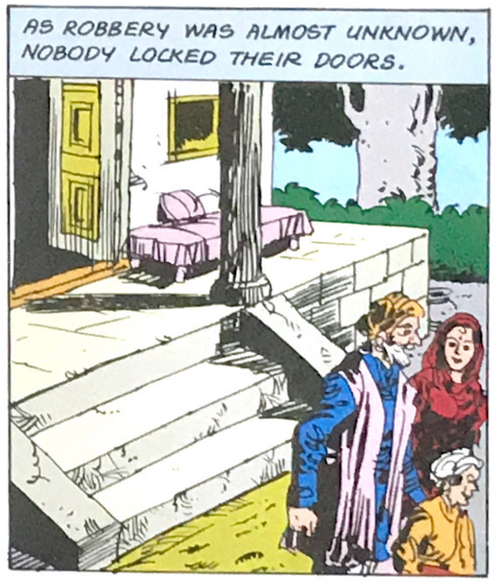
YOU HAVE DONE WELL. YOU MAY GO.

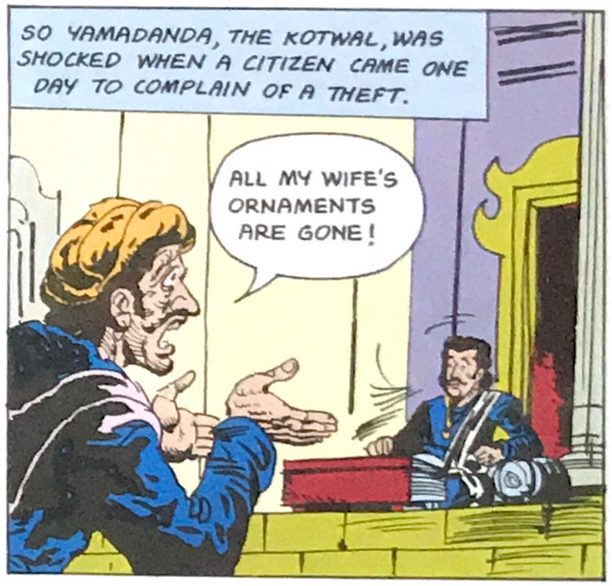
IT IS A LONG TIME SINCE WE PLAYED THIEF AND KOTWAL, YAMADANDA,

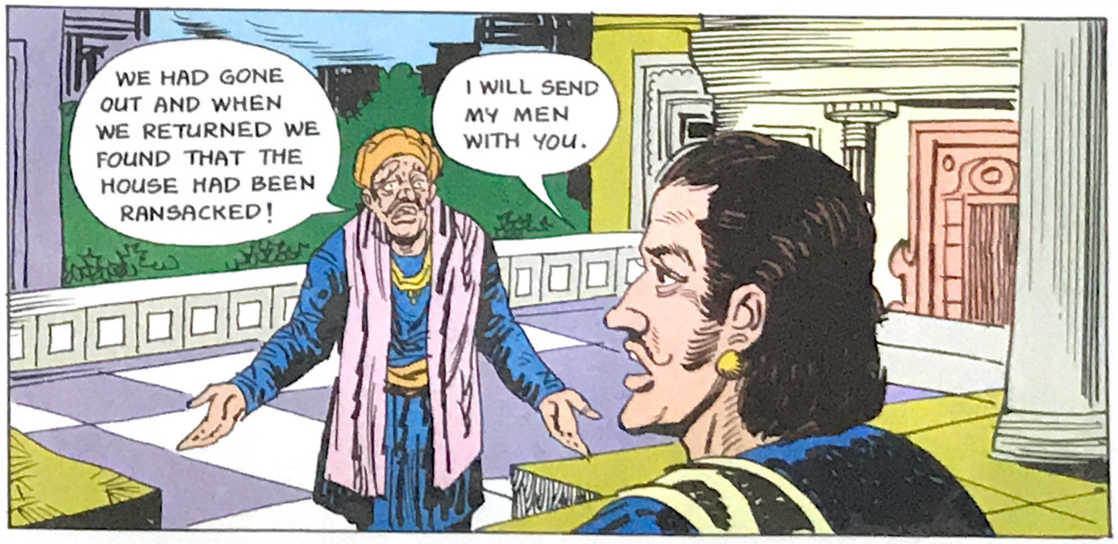
IT'S TIME WE PLAYED AGAIN... THIS TIME I WILL PLAY THE THIEF.

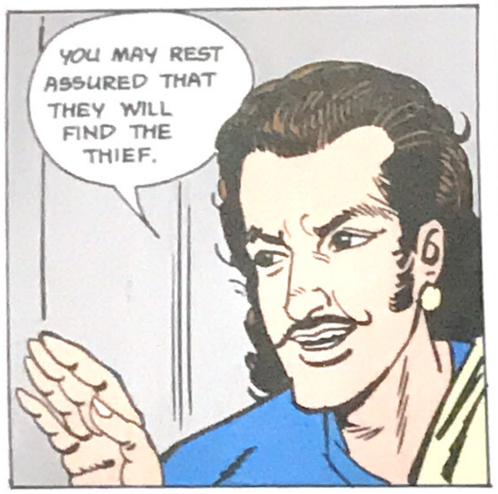

VIDYUT ENTRUSTED THE CARE OF HIS KINGDOM TO HIS FAITHFUL MINISTER, PURUSHOTHAMA, AND HIS ADVISER, VAJRASENA HEGDE, AND SECRETLY LEFT FOR MITHILA.

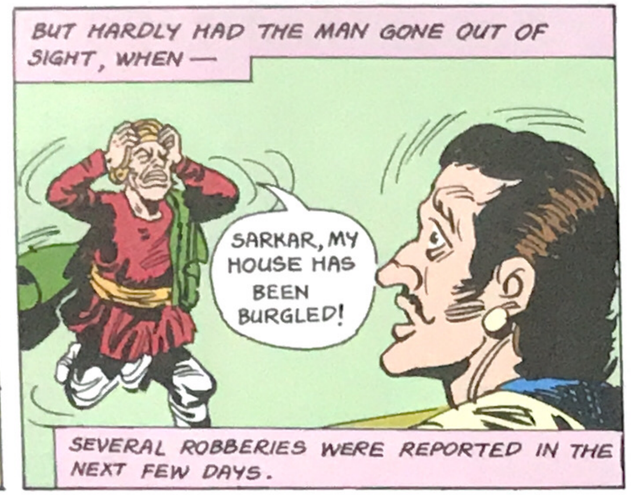

MITHILA WAS A PEACEFUL KINGDOM OF LAW-ABIDING SUBJECTS.

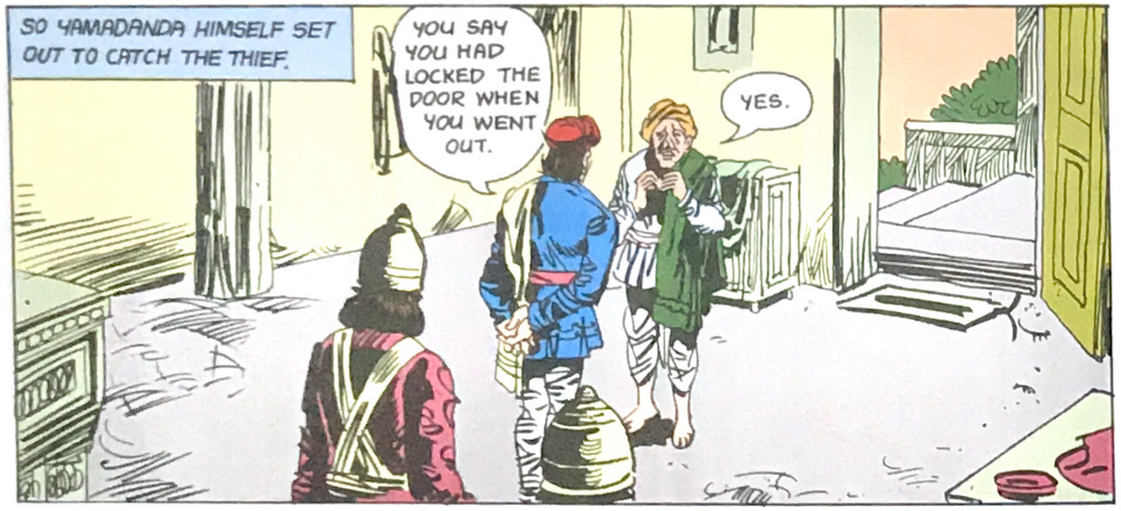

AS ROBBERY WAS ALMOST UNKNOWN, NOBODY LOCKED THEIR DOORS.

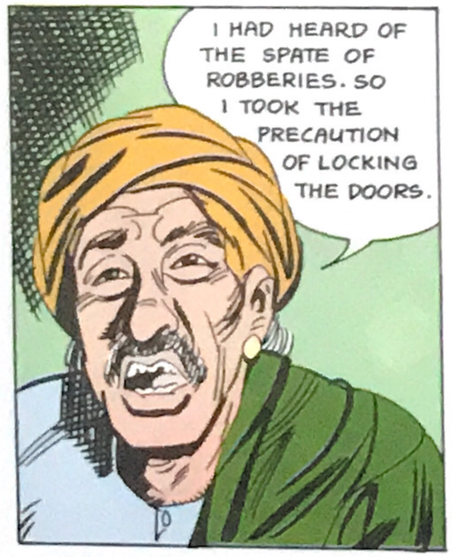

SO YAMADANDA, THE KOTWAL, WAS SHOCKED WHEN A CITIZEN CAME ONE DAY TO COMPLAIN OF A THEFT.
ALL MY WIFE'S ORNAMENTS ARE GONE!

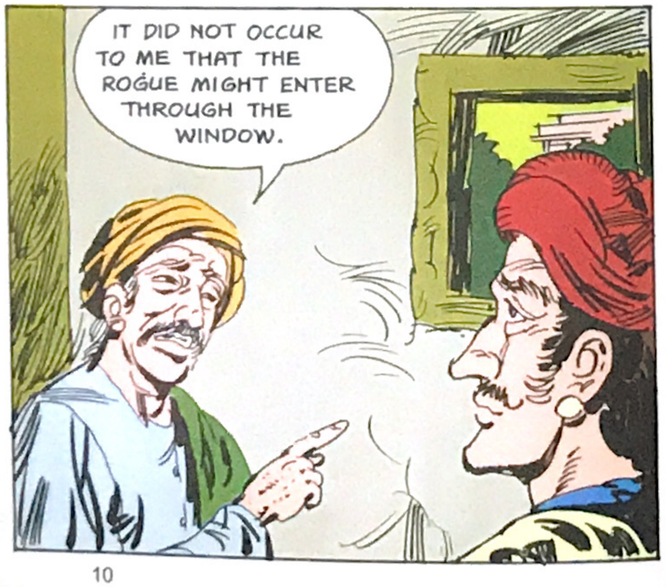

WE HAD GONE OUT AND WHEN WE RETURNED WE FOUND THAT THE HOUSE HAD BEEN RANSACKED!
I WILL SEND MY MEN WITH YOU.

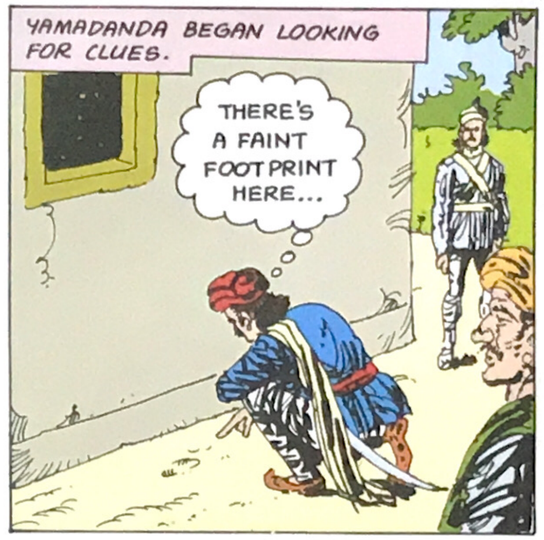

YOU MAY REST ASSURED THAT THEY WILL FIND THE THIEF.


BUT HARDLY HAD THE MAN GONE OUT OF SIGHT, WHEN —
SARKAR, MY HOUSE HAS BEEN BURGLED!
SEVERAL ROBBERIES WERE REPORTED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.


SO YAMADANDA HIMSELF SET OUT TO CATCH THE THIEF.
YOU SAY YOU HAD LOCKED THE DOOR WHEN YOU WENT OUT.
YES.


I HAD HEARD OF THE SPATE OF ROBBERIES. SO I TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF LOCKING THE DOORS.


IT DID NOT OCCUR TO ME THAT THE ROGUE MIGHT ENTER THROUGH THE WINDOW.


YAMADANDA BEGAN LOOKING FOR CLUES.
THERE'S A FAINT FOOTPRINT HERE...

...THE FOOTPRINT OF A SMALL FOOT.

PEOPLE ARE SAYING THERE'S A GANG OF CRIMINALS ON THE LOOSE.
DON'T LISTEN TO RUMOURS.

ALL THE ROBBERIES ARE THE WORK OF THE SAME MAN... AND WE'LL CATCH HIM BEFORE LONG.
I AM SURE YOU WILL. BUT...

...BUT SOME OF THE PEOPLE HERE ARE GETTING RESTLESS.
SARKAR!

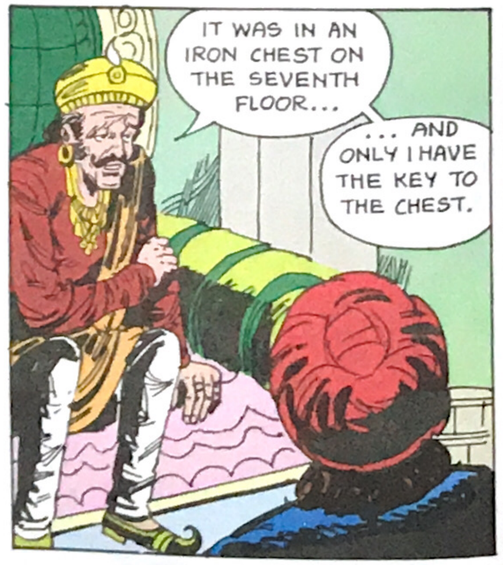
THERE HAS BEEN A THEFT AT THE PALACE!
AT THE PALACE?

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?
EARLY THIS MORNING. THE KING HAS SENT ME TO FETCH YOU.

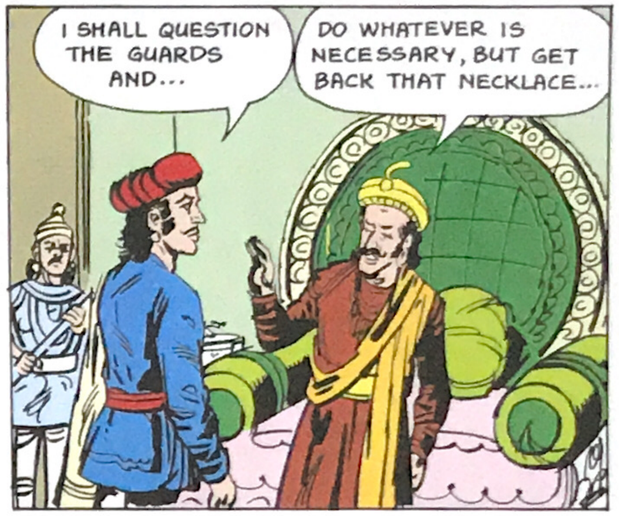
NOW HE'S IN FOR IT.

THE KING WILL HAVE HIS HEAD FOR SURE.

SOON, AT THE PALACE —
MY VALUABLE NECK-LACE, SARVARUJAPAHARA, HAS BEEN STOLEN!


IT WAS IN AN IRON CHEST ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR...
... AND ONLY I HAVE THE KEY TO THE CHEST.

I USED TO GO UP AND WORSHIP IT EVERY MORNING. BUT TODAY, WHEN I OPENED THE CHEST, THE NECKLACE WAS GONE!


I SHALL QUESTION THE GUARDS AND...
DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY, BUT GET BACK THAT NECKLACE...

...AND PRODUCE THE THIEF BEFORE ME. I HAVE NO DOUBT HE IS THE SAME MAN WHO IS HARASSING MY SUBJECTS.
IF I DON'T BRING HIM BEFORE YOU WITHIN SEVEN DAYS, MAHARAJ...

...YOU MAY HANG ME.

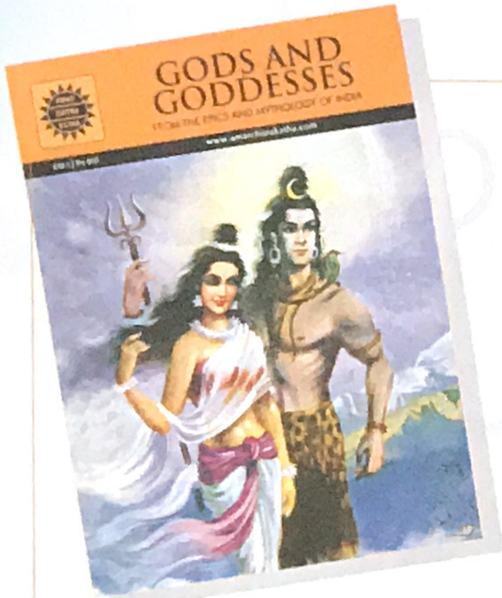
* THE ART OF STEALING

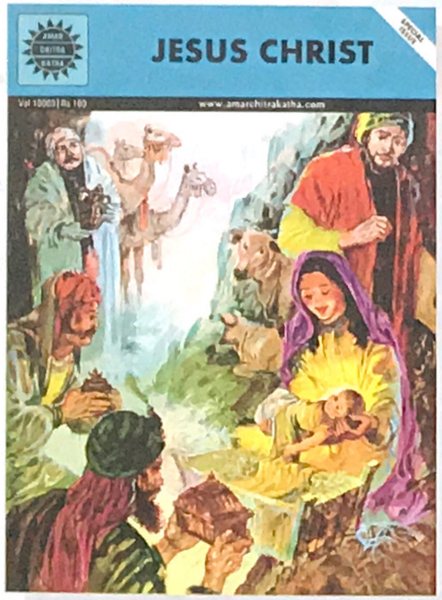
CONTD. ON PAGE 19

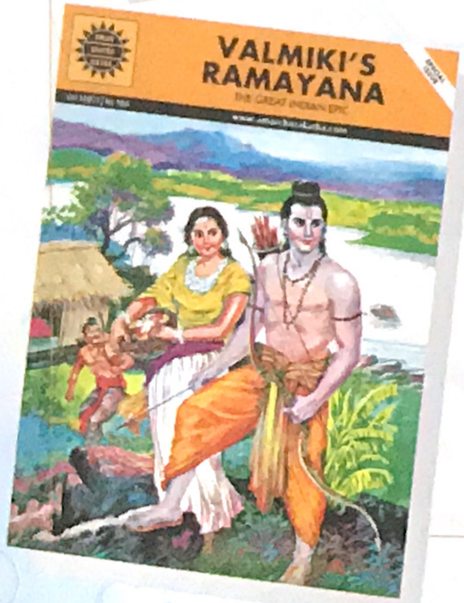
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

Special volumes that bring the most popular classics of all time in a collector's edition.

Special Issues



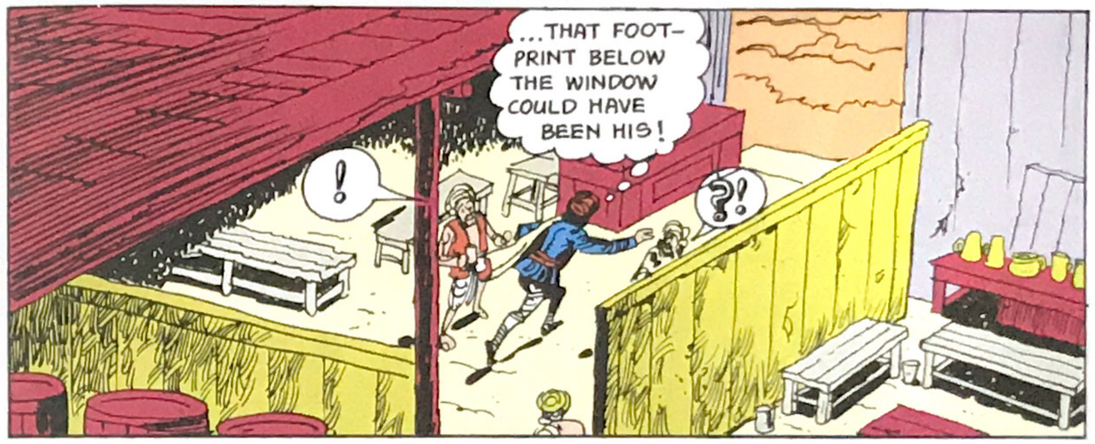


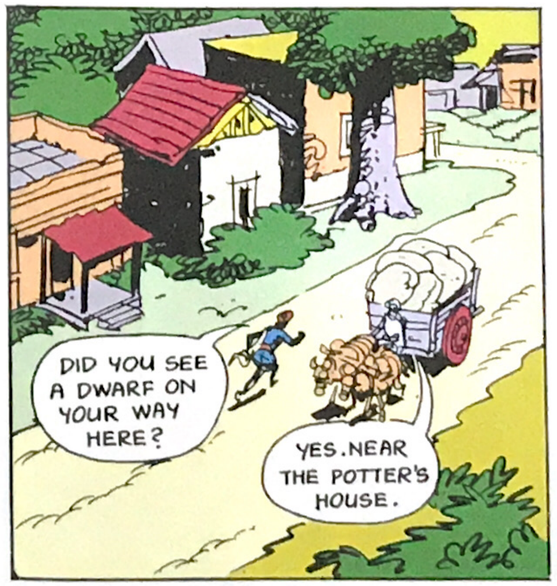


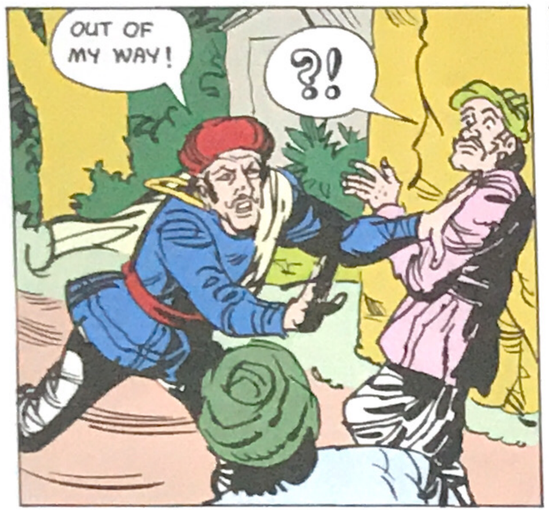
Also available

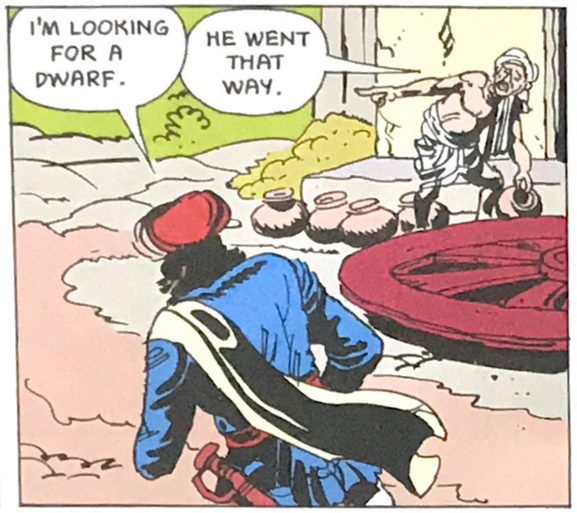
- Devotees and Demons- 1
- Tulsidas' Ramayana
- Dasha Avatar
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Mahabharata (43-comic edition)
- Bhagawat

All titles available on www.amarchitrakatha.com.

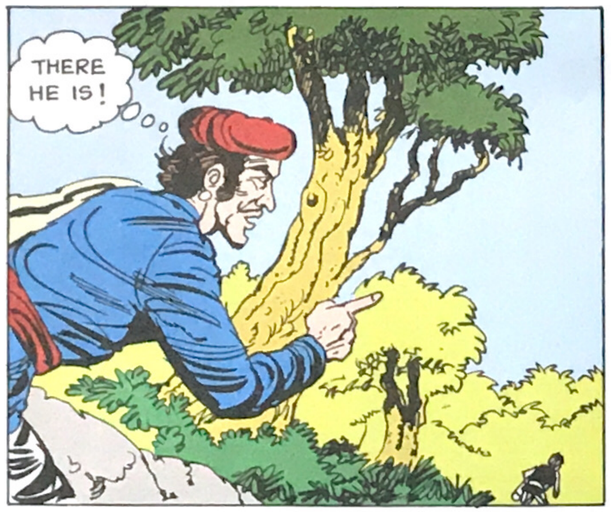


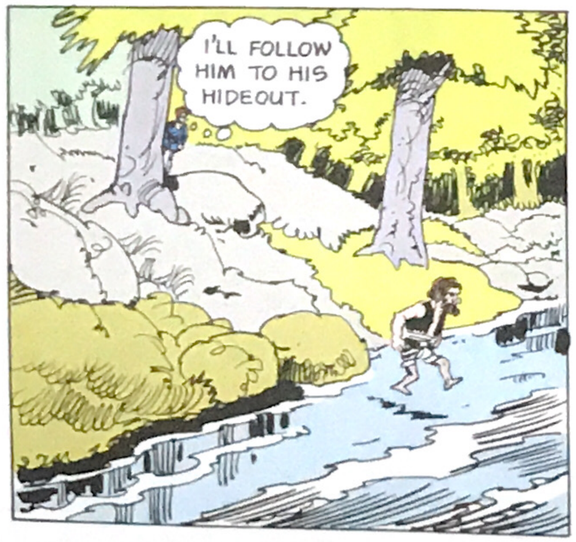



OUT OF MY WAY!
?!


I'M LOOKING FOR A DWARF.
HE WENT THAT WAY.

IF I LOSE HIM, I'LL LOSE MY HEAD.


THERE HE IS!

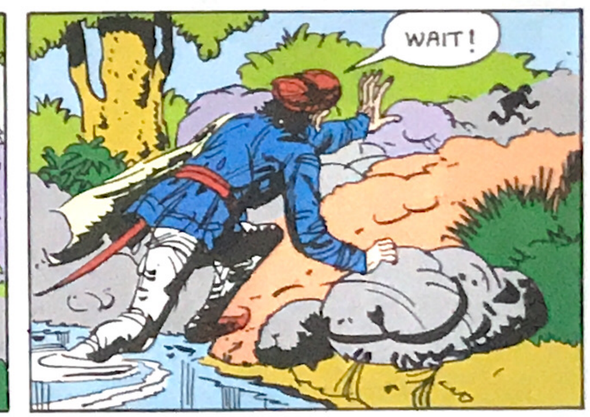

I'LL FOLLOW HIM TO HIS HIDEOUT.

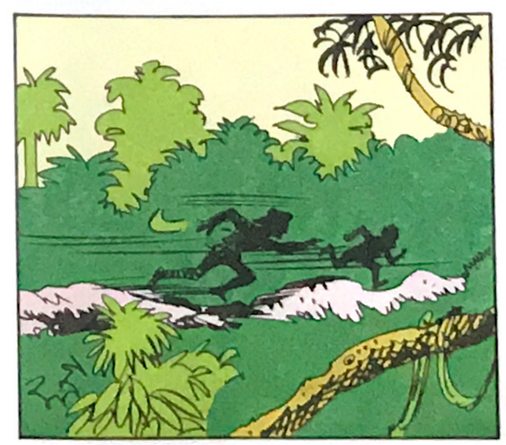
HE'S CROSSING THE STREAM WITHOUT TOUCHING THE WATER.

I MUST NOT LET HIM GET AWAY.

OOPS.
OH!

HEY, YOU!


WAIT!



AAAH!

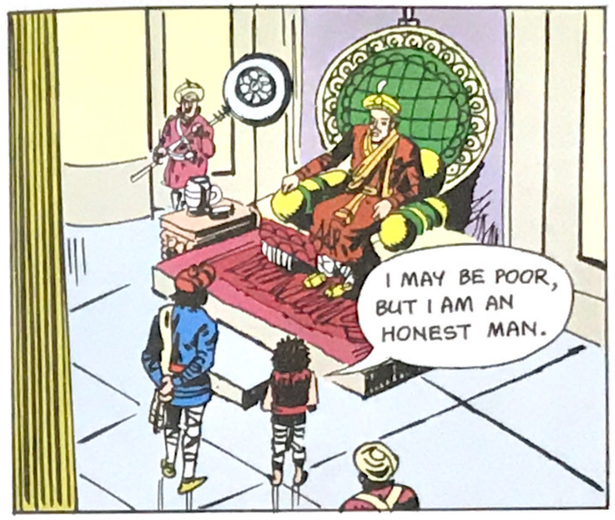
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.
UNDER ARREST? WHAT FOR?

FOR ROBBERY!
ROBBERY?

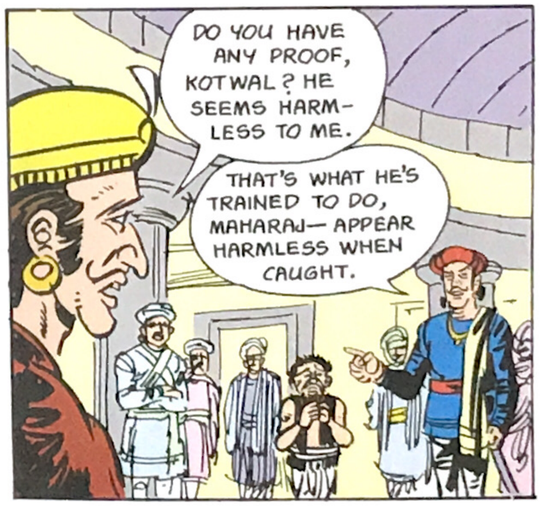
BUT I'VE NEVER ROBBED A SOUL IN MY LIFE!
OH, YES? WHY DID YOU TRY TO RUN AWAY THEN?

COME ON! DON'T WASTE MY TIME!

YAMADANDA TOOK THE DWARF TO THE KING.
HERE IS THE THIEF, MAHARAJ.
I'M NO THIEF!


I MAY BE POOR, BUT I AM AN HONEST MAN.

I'VE NEVER ROBBED ANYONE IN MY LIFE.
AND THE DWARF BEGAN TO CRY.


DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF, KOTWAL? HE SEEMS HARMLESS TO ME.
THAT'S WHAT HE'S TRAINED TO DO, MAHARAJ— APPEAR HARMLESS WHEN CAUGHT.

HE HAS SUPERNATURAL POWERS AND HE CAN CHANGE HIS FORM AT WILL.

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW HE DOES IT.
THE KOTWAL TOOK SOME PASTE FROM A BOX...

... AND SMEARED IT ON THE DWARF'S EYES.

THE NEXT MOMENT —

IT IS VIDYUT. JUST AS I SUSPECTED.
?!
WHO'S THIS?
!
!

THIS IS HIS TRUE FORM.
MY TRUE FORM ? I HAVE BEEN A DWARF ALL MY LIFE.

YOU'VE GIVEN ME A WONDERFUL NEW BODY, NO DOUBT. BUT...

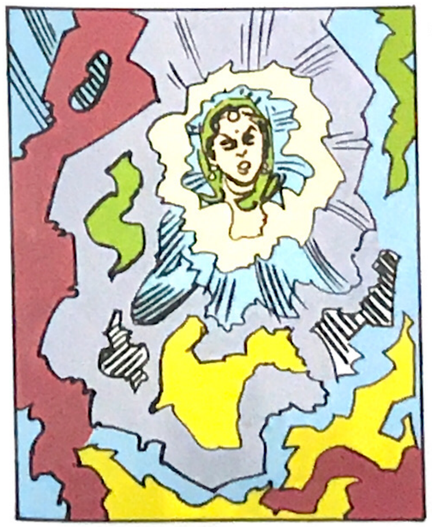
...IF IT'S GOING TO HANG ME FOR SOMETHING I DIDN'T DO, I DON'T WANT IT.

THIS PASTE IS CALLED GHUTIKANJANA AND IS WELL KNOWN TO THOSE WHO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIEVES...THIEVES WHO HAVE MASTERED THE ART.

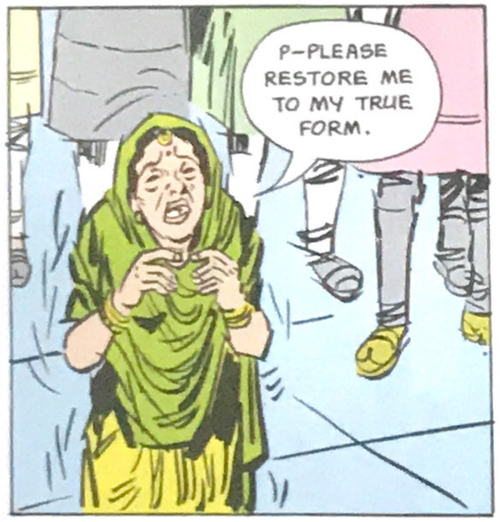
IT CAN CHANGE ANYONE INTO A DWARF! I'LL DEMONSTRATE HOW IT WORKS.

COME HERE.
M-ME?

DON'T BE AFRAID.

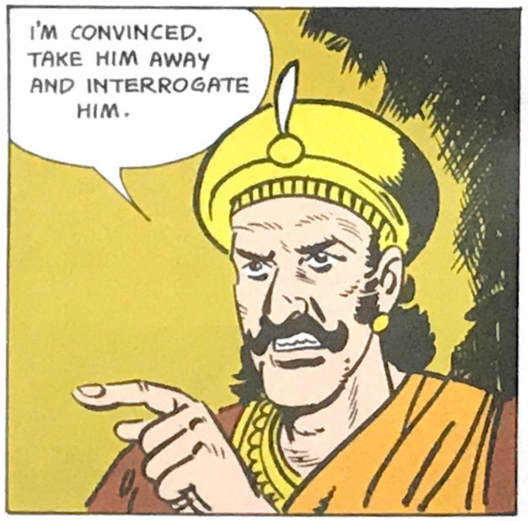


AMAZING!


P-PLEASE RESTORE ME TO MY TRUE FORM.

THE KOTWAL APPLIED ANOTHER PASTE TO HER EYES...

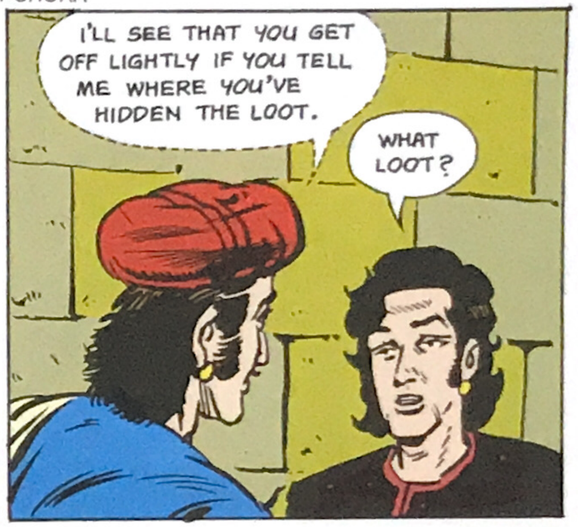
... AND THE MAID REGAINED HER ORIGINAL FORM.


I'M CONVINCED. TAKE HIM AWAY AND INTERROGATE HIM.

THE GAME HAS GONE TOO FAR, MAHARAJ. LET'S TELL THE KING THE WHOLE STORY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU ARE THE KOTWAL. I, THE ACCUSED. DO YOUR DUTY.

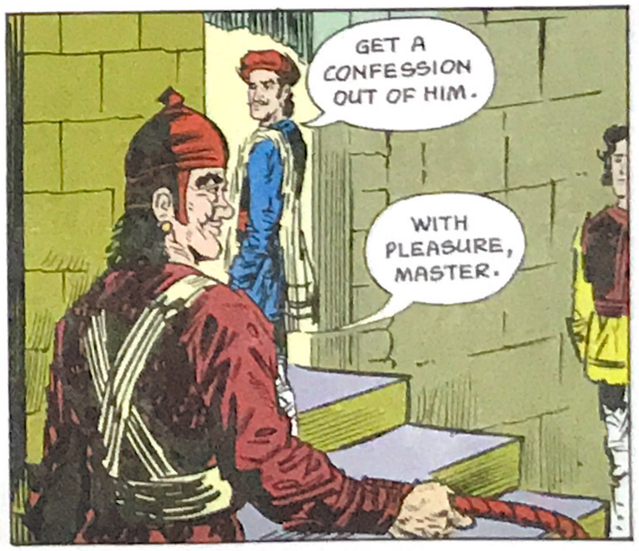
DO NOT FORCE ME TO USE HARSH MEASURES AGAINST YOU, MAHARAJ. CONFESS.
CONFESS TO WHAT!

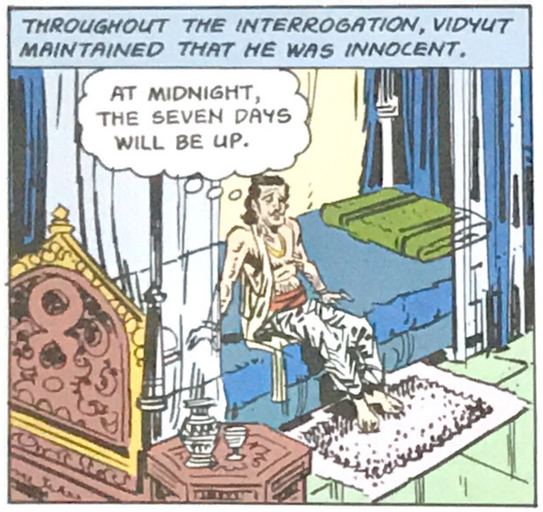

I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET OFF LIGHTLY IF YOU TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE HIDDEN THE LOOT.
WHAT LOOT?

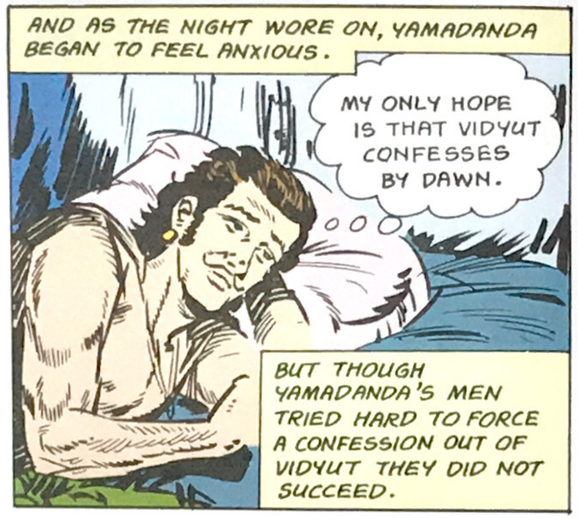
I'VE TOLD YOU I HAVE NEVER ROBBED ANYONE.
ALL RIGHT, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT.

I ONCE TOLD YOU THAT IF YOU EVER COMMITTED A CRIME IN MY TERRITORY I WOULD HAVE YOU BEATEN UP. REMEMBER?

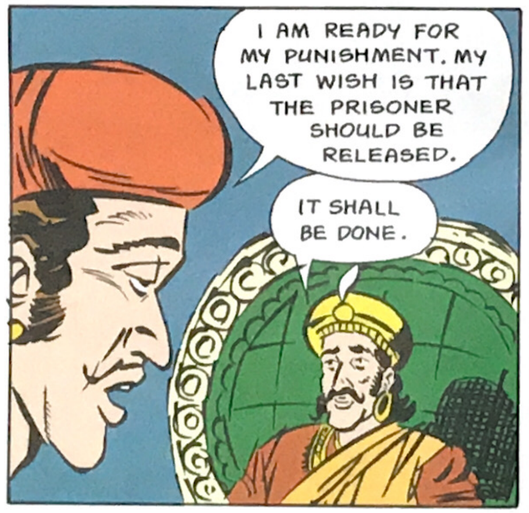
NOW I'M FORCED TO DO JUST THAT.


GET A CONFESSION OUT OF HIM.
WITH PLEASURE, MASTER.

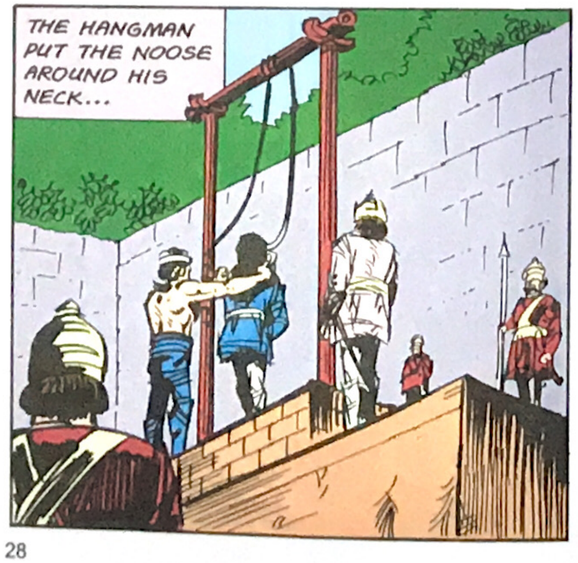

THROUGHOUT THE INTERROGATION, VIDYUT MAINTAINED THAT HE WAS INNOCENT.
AT MIDNIGHT, THE SEVEN DAYS WILL BE UP.

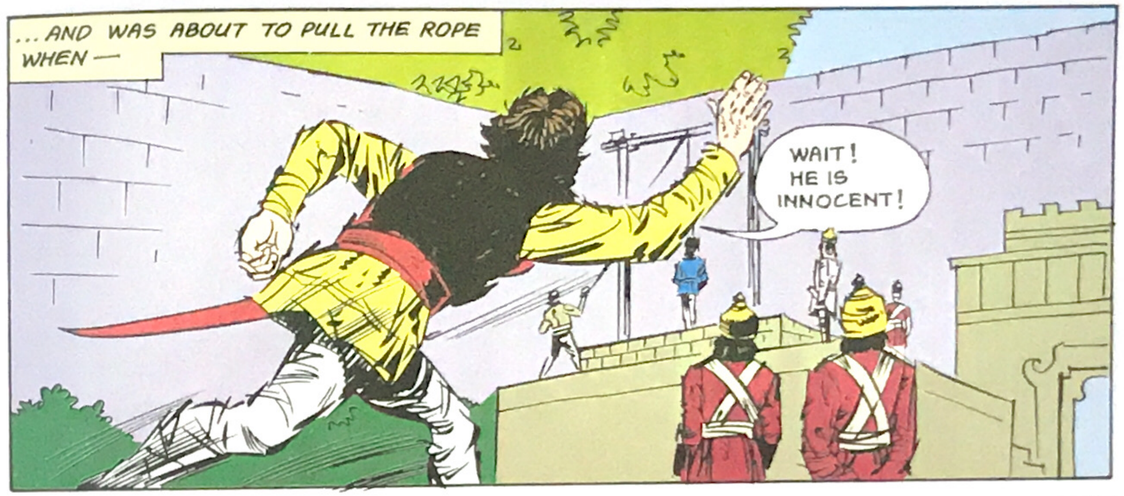

AND AS THE NIGHT WORE ON, YAMADANDA BEGAN TO FEEL ANXIOUS.
MY ONLY HOPE IS THAT VIDYUT CONFESSES BY DAWN.
BUT THOUGH YAMADANDA'S MEN TRIED HARD TO FORCE A CONFESSION OUT OF VIDYUT THEY DID NOT SUCCEED.

VIDYUT DID NOT CONFESS. AND THE NEXT MORNING —
I'VE FAILED TO RECOVER THE NECKLACE AND TO BRING THE THIEF BEFORE YOU.


I AM READY FOR MY PUNISHMENT. MY LAST WISH IS THAT THE PRISONER SHOULD BE RELEASED.
IT SHALL BE DONE.

THE KOTWAL WAS LED TO THE GALLOWS.


THE HANGMAN PUT THE NOOSE AROUND HIS NECK...

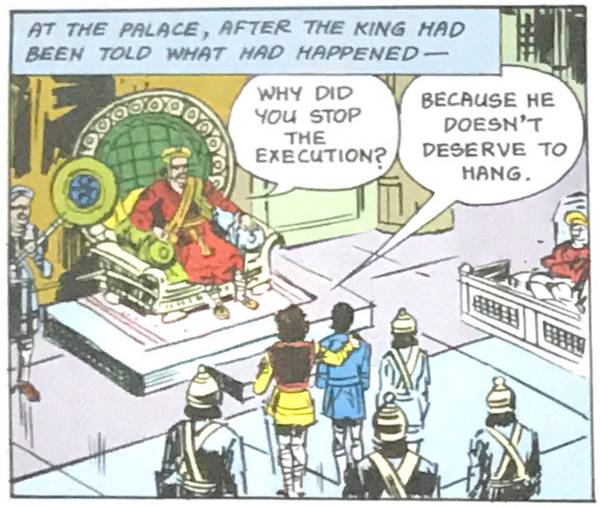

...AND WAS ABOUT TO PULL THE ROPE WHEN —
WAIT! HE IS INNOCENT!

YAMADANDA, HAVE I NOT REDEEMED MY PLEDGE.
YOU HAVE, VIDYUT.

YOU ARE A CONSUMMATE THIEF.

WHAT'S GOING ON?
I DON'T KNOW.

LET'S TAKE THEM BOTH TO THE KING.


AT THE PALACE, AFTER THE KING HAD BEEN TOLD WHAT HAD HAPPENED—
WHY DID YOU STOP THE EXECUTION?
BECAUSE HE DOESN'T DESERVE TO HANG.

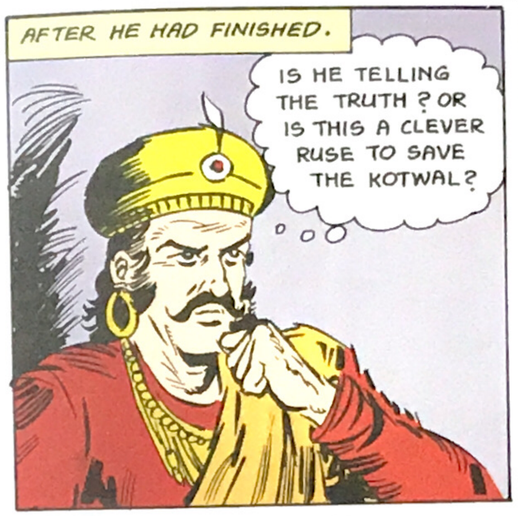
I AM INDEED THE THIEF HE SAID I WAS.

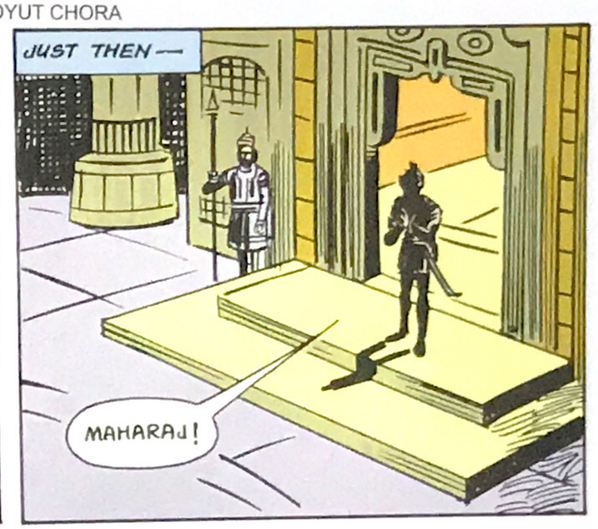
THE TREASURE IS SAFE. IT IS IN A CAVE NEAR THE RIVER WHERE I WAS CAUGHT.
I SHALL SEND MY MEN TO FETCH IT.

BUT MY CURIOSITY IS AROUSED. WHY SHOULD A THIEF WHO HAS BEEN RELEASED COME BACK TO CONFESS?
I AM NOT A PROFESSIONAL THIEF.

I WAS ONLY REDEEMING A PLEDGE I MADE SEVERAL YEARS AGO...

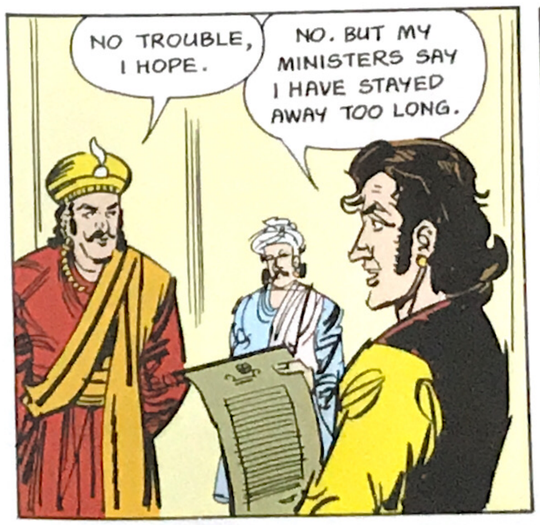
... IN OUR CHILDHOOD
AND VIDYUT TOLD THE KING THE WHOLE STORY.


AFTER HE HAD FINISHED.
IS HE TELLING THE TRUTH? OR IS THIS A CLEVER RUSE TO SAVE THE KOTWAL?

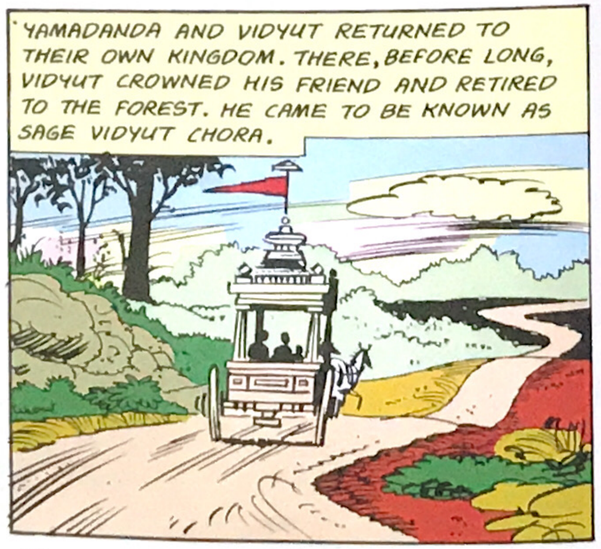

JUST THEN—
MAHARAJ!

I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM VAJRASENA.

SO HE IS INDEED A KING!


NO TROUBLE, I HOPE.
NO. BUT MY MINISTERS SAY I HAVE STAYED AWAY TOO LONG.

THEY HAVE REQUESTED ME TO RETURN.
IT IS INDEED A PITY THAT I HAVE MADE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE SO LATE...



WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY
Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu
Agastya
Andhaka
Aniruddha
Aruni And Uttanka
Ashwini Kumars
Ayyappan
Bahubali
Bhanumati
Bheema And Hanuman
Bheeshma
Chandrahasa
Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephanta
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
Harischandra
Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
Indra And Vritra
Jagannatha Of Puri
Jayadratha
Kacha And Devayani
Karna
Karttikeya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False Vaasudeva
Kubera
Kumbhakarna
Mahabharata
Mahiravana
Nachiketa
Nahusha
Nala Damayanti
Pareekshit
Parashurama
Prabhavati
Pradyumna
Prahlad
Purushottam Dev And Padmavati
Rama
Ravana Humbled
Saraswati
Sati And Shiva
Savitri
Shiva Parvati
Stories of Creation
Subhadra
Sudama
Sukanya
Surya
Tales From The Upanishads
Tales Of Arjuna
Tales Of Balarama
Tales Of Durga
Tales Of Indra
Tales Of Narada
Tales Of Shiva
Tales Of Vishnu
Tales Of Yudhishthira
Tapati
Thanjavur
The Churning Of The Ocean
The Gita
The Golden Mongoose
The King In A Parrot's Body
The Lord Of Lanka
The Pandava Princes
The Pandavas In Hiding
The Parijata Tree
The Sons Of Rama
The Syamantaka Gem
Tirupati
Tripura
Uloopi
Vaishno Devi
Vali
Vishwamitra
Yayati

VISIONARIES
Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

Adi Shankara
Albert Einstein
Anant Pai
Babasaheb Ambedkar
Basaveshwara
Buddha
Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
Chanakya
Chokha Mela
Dayananda
Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das
Eknath
Fa Hien
Ghanshyamdas Birla
Guru Arjan
Guru Gobind Singh
Guru Har Gobind
Guru Nanak
Guru Tegh Bahadur
Hiuen Tsang
J.R.D Tata
Jagadis Chandra Bose
Jamsetji Tata
Jawaharlal Nehru
Jayaprakash Narayan
Jim Corbett
Jnaneshwar
Kabir
Kalidasa
Lal Bahadur Shastri
Lokmanya Tilak
M. S. Subbulakshmi
Madhvacharya
Mahavira
Marie And Pierre Curie
Megasthenes
Mirabai
Mother Teresa
Narayan Guru
Rabindranath Tagore
Ram Shastri
Ramana Maharshi
Ramanuja
Salim Ali
Shankar Dev
Soordas
Sri. Ramakrishna
Srinivasa Ramanujan
Subramania Bharati
Swami Chinmayananda
Swami Pranavananda
Tales Of Sai Baba
Tansen
Tulsidas
Vidyasagar
Vivekananda
Zarathushtra

INDIAN CLASSICS
Enchanting tales from Indian literature

Ananda Math
Ancestors Of Rama
Devi Choudhurani
Durgesh Nandini
Kadambari
Kannagi
Kapala Kundala
Kumanan
Maarthaanda Varma
Malavika
Manonmani
Prince Jivaka
Raj Singh
Ratnavali
Shakuntala
The Adventures Of Pratapan
The Elusive Kaka
Udayana
Urvashi
Vasantasena
Vasavadatta
Veer Dhaval

FABLES AND HUMOUR
Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

A Bag Of Gold Coins
Amrapali
Andher Nagari
Angulimala
Bikal The Terrible
BIRBAL STORIES
Birbal The Clever
Birbal The Genius
Birbal The Just
Birbal The Wise
Birbal The Witty
Birbal To The Rescue
The Inimitable Birbal
Chandralalat
Dhola And Maru
Friends And Foes
Gopal And The Cowherd
Gopal The Jester
HITOPADESHA TALES
Choice Of Friends
How Friends Are Parted
Hothal
JATAKA TALES
Battle Of Wits
Bird Stories
Deer Stories
Elephant Stories
Jackal Stories
Monkey Stories
Nandi Vishala
Stories Of Courage
Stories Of Wisdom
Tales Of Misers
The Deadly Feast
The Giant And The Dwarf
The Hidden Treasure
The Magic Chant
The Mouse Merchant
True Friends
Kanwal And Kehar
Kesari The Flying Thief
King Kusha
Manduka
PANCHATANTRA TALES
Crows And Owls
How The Jackal Ate The Elephant
The Brahmin And The Goat
The Dullard
The Greedy Mother-in-law
The Jackal And The Wardrum
Raman Of Tenali
Raman The Matchless Wit
Sahasramalla
Sakshi Gopal
Satwant Kaur
Sharan Kaur
Shrenik
Sukhu And Dukhu
Sundari
Tales Of Maryada Rama
The Acrobat
The Adventures Of Agad Datta
The Adventures Of Baddu And Chhotu
The Bridegroom's Ring
The Celestial Necklace
The Clever Dancer
The Cowherd Of Alawi
The Fearless Boy
The Fool's Disciples
The Golden Sand
The Green Demon
The Unhappy Tiger
The Learned Pandit
The Lost Prince
The Magic Grove
The Miraculous Conch
The Mystery Of The Missing Gift
The Pandit And The Milkmaid
The Pig And The Dog
The Pious Cat
The Priceless Gem
The Prince And The Magician
The Prophecy
The Queen's Necklace
The Rainbow Prince
The Secret Of The Talking Bird
The Silent Teacher
The Tiger And The Woodpecker
The Tiger Eater
Thugsen
Vidyut Chora
Vikramaditya's Throne

BRAVEHEARTS
Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

A Nation Awakes
Ahilyabai Holkar
Ajatashatru
Akbar
Amar Singh Rathor
Ashoka
Babur
Bagha Jatin
Bajirao I
Baladitya And Yashodharma
Balban
Banda Bahadur
Bappa Rawal
Beni Madho And Pir Ali
Bhagat Singh
Bidhi Chand
Bimbisara
Chand Bibi
Chandra Shekhar Azad
Chandragupta Maurya
Chennamma Of Keladi
Dara Shukho And Aurangazeb
Durgadas
Ellora Caves
Hakka And Bukka
Hari Singh Nalwa
Harsha
Hemu
Humayun
Jahangir
Jallianwala Bagh
Kalpana Chawla
Kochunni
Krishnadeva Raya
Kunwar Singh
Lachit Barphukan
Lalitaditya
Mangal Pande
Noor Jahan
Padmini
Panna And Hadi Rani
Paurava And Alexander
Pnthviraj Chauhan
Raja Bhoja
Raja Raja Chola
Rana Kumbha
Rana Pratap
Rana Sanga
Rani Abbakka
Rani Durgavati
Rani Of Jhansi
Ranjit Singh
Rash Bihari Bose
Roopmati
Sambhaji
Samudra Gupta
Sea Route To India
Shah Jahan
Shalivahana
Shantala
Sher Shah
Shivaji
Subhas Chandra Bose
Sultana Razia
Surjya Sen
Tachcholi Othenan
Tales Of Shivaji
Tanaji
Tenzing Norgay
The Historic City Of Delhi
The Rani Of Kittur
Tipu Sultan
Veer Hammir
Veer Savarkar
Velu Thampi
Vikramaditya

CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS
(New Category)
The best of modern Indian literature

The Blue Umbrella

Titles available in English and other Regional languages on www.amarchitrakatha.com